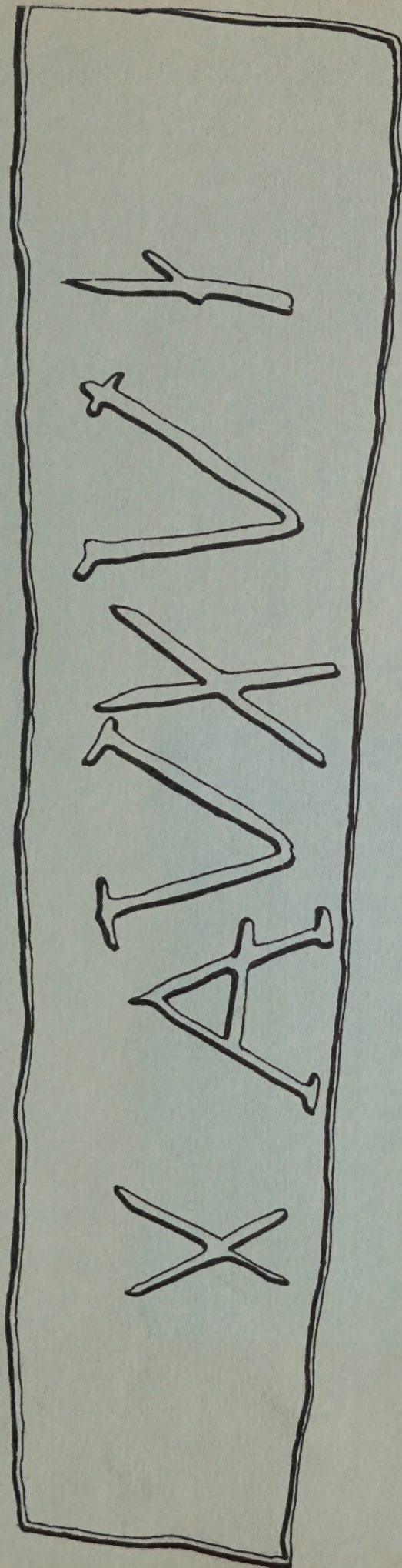


# THE TOWN THAT MOVED



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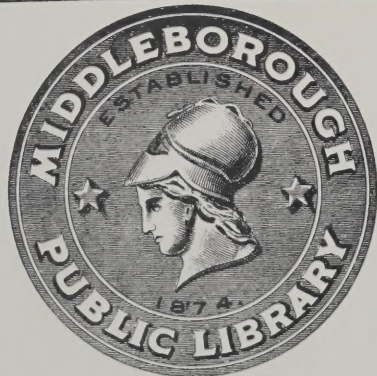
Published  
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HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
and  
ATTLEBORO  
HISTORICAL VOLUNTEERS



COVER DESIGN - SIGNATURE OF ALEXANDER (WAMSUTTA) FROM WHOM REHOBOTH  
NORTH PURCHASE WAS MADE. AS INSCRIBED ON BOULDER IN ASSAWOMPSETT  
POND, MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS.

BY J. RIVARD.

MAP OF REHOBOTH SETTLEMENT AND OLD REHOBOTH TOWN SQUARE ADAPTED FROM  
"EARLY REHOBOTH" BY PERMISSION OF RICHARD LEBARON BOWEN, JR.  
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND.



FROM

Class N<sup>o</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

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Middleborough, Mass., \_\_\_\_\_

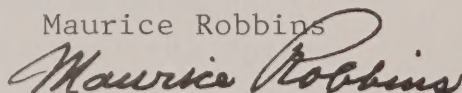
## FOREWORD

It is obvious that in writing of the early events which compose the history of the community in which we live that the modern writer is totally dependent upon previously published accounts by other authors. No one now living has experienced the events of which this early history is composed; all of those events have been recorded by others to whom the modern writer must turn for information.

In his "Early Rehoboth" (Vol. I "Preface" page X) Mr. Richard Lebaron Bowen has said, "Fully documented, this volume is intended as a source book, not only for the genealogist and students of Rehoboth history, but also for students of Bristol County and Plymouth County."

The writer has taken Mr. Bowen at his word and made extensive use of his four volumes as a source book for much of the history contained in the present paper. The credit for this painstaking research belongs to Mr. Bowen and not to the author of this paper. To those who would learn more of Rehoboth history the four volumes of "Early Rehoboth" by Richard Lebaron Bowen, privately printed by the Rumford Press, Concord, New Hampshire, 1945, will prove a treasure trove of information.

Maurice Robbins



Honorary Member,  
Attleboro Historical  
Commission





## REHOBOTH THE TOWN THAT MOVED

The great river that formed the western boundary of the domain of Ousamequin, Sachem of Pokonoket, was called the Seekonk River by the Indians. Rising within the limits of the Bay Colony, the Seekonk enters Rhode Island at what is now Woonsocket and flows southerly between Pawtucket and Lincoln, the Indian Wannamoisett, emptying into Narragansett Bay. In early times the English called it the Pawtucket River but, with the passing of time, it acquired other names. From its source to the falls at Pawtucket it became the Blackstone River, named for the first white man to settle on its banks. From the falls to the narrows near Fort Hill it retained its original Indian name but, before it reached Watchemoket Cove it became the Providence River until it was lost in the salt waters of the Bay. To the Narragansetts who lived along its western shore the country on the opposite side of the river was "waman-auke" the "east land" or the "land of the rising sun."

The native names of the sub-areas that comprised this southwestern portion, the Pokonoket territory, are known through references found in deeds and other land records as well as letters. Starting at the northern extremity of the area (1) what is now Cumberland, Rhode Island, was Mishanegetaconette and Snehataconett. Passing southward along the ancient trail that paralleled the east shore of the river one came next to Wawepounshag, "the place where Blackstone now sojourneth," and then to Pautuckquett (Pawtucket, Rhode Island) the "place of the falls," where the Indians came in the springtime to fish. Immediately south of Pautuckquett was Seaconkett (Seekonk, Mass.), and Watchemoket (East Providence, Rhode Island). East of Watchemoket were Wannamoisett and Mattepoisett (Swansea, Mass.) Shawomet (Somerset, Mass.), Naket (Barrington, Rhode Island). Collectively, Wannamoisett, Mattepoisett, Shawomet, Naket and Montaup were known as Sowamsett, the "south land," that is the southern portion of the domain of the sachem Ousamequin. Within the bounds of the present town of Rehoboth was Squannaconk Swamp, on the eastern border of which is Annawon's Rock where Philip's ablest captain of that name was taken by Benjamin





Church in 1676. South of Squannaconk Swamp was Manhague Plain, and Scaketowasquan, (Norton and Taunton, Mass. respectively.)

Within this rather large tract of land which was sold to the English by Ousamequin, there were three areas, Watchemoket, Seaconkett, and Pautuckquett, that had been densely occupied by Indians prior to 1617. By 1630 there were few inhabitants left, so terrible had been the effects of the plague. There was a small village near Pautuckquett Falls and another at Watchemoket. There does not seem to have been any Indians left at the Seeconkett site. This is not surprising when one considers the immediate past history of the area. In 1617, or thereabouts, had come the sickness which had decimated the Wampaneuks and the Massawachuseuks but had largely passed by the Narragansetts, west of the river. Thus greatly reduced in numbers and in fighting strength, the Wampaneuks were the victims of numerous raids from across the river as the Narragansetts sought to take advantage of the opportunity to expand their own territory. These incursions so discouraged the people of Sowamsett that they all but deserted the eastern river bank, withdrawing to villages somewhat removed from their borders. These conditions probably exerted considerable influence in persuading Ousamequin to sell this land to the English. By so doing he not only secured a powerful ally, but created a sort of buffer state between his exposed villages and the warlike Narragansetts.

The chief village of the Wampaneuks at which Ousamequin had his residence for most of the year, was Pokonoket, or, as the English were wont to call it, Sowams. This village was located at the confluence of the Warren and Barrington Rivers. On many occasions after 1620 this village was attacked by Narragansett war parties. Among the Winslow papers there is an account of one such raid in which it is said that the Narragansetts laid seige to an English trading house and relates how Captain Myles Standish was sent with his little army from Plymouth to the relief of the three Englishmen who were residing there. It is known that the Dutch maintained a trading post at Sowamsett before 1620 and one wonders whether or not this was the same post that had been taken over by the Pilgrims sometime after 1622.





William Blackstone or Blaxton was the first English settler and sole proprietor of Shawmut, now Boston. He came to America about 1625 and lived at Shawmut until the arrival of the Winthrop company in 1630. The new comers located first at Charlestown but, upon the invitation of Blackstone, removed to Shawmut. Blackstone was a clergyman of the established church of England, but, as he put it, "not being able to endure the power of the Lords Bishops," he had migrated to America. In 1634, "discontented with the power of the Lords Brethren," he sold his Shawmut land to them for thirty pounds. In the spring of 1635 he moved to a site on the Blackstone River some three miles above Pautuckquett but then within the Plymouth Patent. There he built his house upon a small hill close by the river and named it "Study Hill." How Blackstone acquired this land is not known but the Plymouth government recognized his title and ordered that the land be recorded to him. Here in the wilderness of Seakonkett, Mr. Blackstone lived in peace until he died May 26, 1675, just a few days before the outbreak of Philip's War. Since Blackstone's time, the river, which once flowed several rods west of the base of his hill, has changed course slightly and now washes the foot of Study Hill.

In 1636 Roger Williams and a group of followers, banished from the Bay, established themselves on the east bank of the Seekonk River about four miles south of Study Hill. The vindictive magistrates of Massachusetts immediately brought their influence to bear at Plymouth and persuaded that colony to warn Williams that he was trespassing upon the Plymouth Patent. With some reluctance and with as much grace as possible the Plymouth Governor wrote to Williams suggesting that he remove his settlement to the other side of the river where they would be out of the jurisdiction of both of the elder colonies. Williams and his company complied, obtained land by gift from the Narragansett sachems and founded Providence Plantations.

Again the east bank of the river was uninhabited until, in 1638/9 a Charlestown group became interested in the area. Roger Williams, still resentful of the treatment he had received, expressed his approval of this proposed settlement in a letter to Governor Winthrop saying that he hoped the





settlement would be made, "either by countenance or connivance."

(1) It has been said that the Charlestown settlers purchased their land from Ousamequin, but, if so, the original deed has been lost. Under date of June 1688, Metacomet, the son and heir of Ousamequin confirmed this sale of his father's by a quit claim or confirmatory deed in favor of, "the townsmen of Seekonk alias Rehoboth," to a tract of land "Eight Miles Square lying and being on the east and west side of a river now called Palmers."

This second attempt to found a settlement at Seekonk also ended in failure. A few sturdy souls remained at Seekonk and were absorbed by a third and successful venture made in 1643 by a company from Weymouth led by the Rev. Samuel Newman. One of the Charlestown men, John Hassel (or Hazell) was living in Seekonk in 1642 and was listed as an inhabitant of Rehoboth in 1645. (2)

In 1643 a company was formed at Weymouth, consisting of the Reverend Samuel Newman and a part of his congregation for the purpose of establishing a new settlement. Daggett says that they, "pursued a large tract of land of the Sachem of Pokonoket, including what is now Rehoboth, Seekonk, and a part of Swansea together with what is now Pawtucket, Rhode Island, then an area known by the Indian name of Wannamoisett. (3) How the title of the Charlestown group that had preceeded them was extinguished is not mentioned, possibly the confirmatory deed mentioned above relates to this transaction.

These new settlers at Rehoboth considered themselves to be politically independent and not subject to the authorities of either Plymouth or Boston Bay. In token of this independent status they drew up and signed the following "compact" in a manner similar to that of the Pilgrim declaration of 1620:- "We whose names are here underwritten, being by the providence of God Inhabitants of Seekonk, intending to settle here, do covenant and bind ourselves one to another, to subject ourselves to nine persons.....and to assist them according to our ability and estate, and do give them timely notice of any such thing as in our conscience may prove dangerous to the plantation, and this combination to continue until we shall subject





ourselves jointly to some other government." The nine men to whom the rest of the company pledged to subject themselves were chosen at a meeting of the proprietors on December 9, 1644. They were Edward Smith, Alexander Winchester, Richard Wright, Henry Smith, Walter Palmer, William Smith, Stephen Payne, Richard Bowen and Robert Martin. (4) These were the predecessors of the "selectmen" although they were not so designated until after 1662.

The two older colonies were not about to accept this political situation. Plymouth in particular was incensed at this bold attempt to alienate the area which they considered to be the best farm land within their patent calling it, "the garden of our patent and even the flower in the garden." (5) Both Boston and Plymouth asserted their respective claims to the Seekonk-Rehoboth land in an appeal addressed to the Commissioners of the United Colonies whom they asked to adjudicate the controversy. At a meeting held at Hartford September 5, 1644, the Commissioners debated the claims that had been submitted by Plymouth and the Bay and rendered a most diplomatic decision saying, "that they concluded that Seekonk was within the patent and jurisdiction of Plymouth unless additional evidence to the contrary be produced before the next September meeting of the Council." (6)

Having had previous experience with the high-handed methods often adopted by the Boston authorities in similar situations, Plymouth resolved to take no chances and, without waiting for the next September meeting of the Council, the Plymouth Court, by a vote on June 5, 1645, adopted the new settlement, approved the name of Rehoboth that the Newman settlers had selected, and declared the settlement to be within their patent and under their jurisdiction. If the Bay made any further attempt to bolster their claim there is no record of it extant.

The "garden of Plymouth Patent" was indeed an attractive site for settlement. Its most noticeable geographic characteristic is a prairie-like landscape which extends northward for many miles toward Massachusetts. The early settlers called it the "Great Plain" or the "Great Rehoboth Plain." Starting





at the juncture of Pawtucket and Hoyt Avenues in East Providence, where the elevation is sixty-five feet above mean sea-level, it rises gradually to a height of seventy-five feet near the Pawtucket line and at the Attleboro boundary it attains a maximum altitude of about eighty feet. This level land continues on to Dedham where it blends into the hills that flank the valley of the Charles River. The plain was bisected by Indian trails. The north-south trail later became the Boston to Newport stage road. The path that crossed the plain from east to west led to a fording place on the Blackstone River near Wayweounshag. According to Daggett (7) this was the only easily passable place on the river." In 1675 Philip and his warriors fleeing from Pocasset Swamp, were following this trail to the wading place when they were discovered by some of the inhabitants of Rehoboth, who sent a message post haste to Captain Cudworth at the Pocasset Swamp fort. The north-south trail led to points south, Acquidneck, Providence, Narragansett, the Connecticut Valley towns, and the Dutch settlements in New Amsterdam. The path passed over the great plain and through the site that would later become Rehoboth. Ann Hutchinson, on her way to exile from the Bay, followed this path through the wilderness and so did Captain Michael Pierce and his company on that fateful Sunday morning in March of 1676 when he left the security of the Rehoboth Garrison to follow some supposedly wounded Indians into an ambush on the western bank of the river. There he fought and his company was annihilated before help could arrive.

Writing a hundred years later, James Birkett who visited America at that time wrote, "this morning we passed the Sea Conck plain being about three miles over without a hill, quite level, surrounded by woods it makes no disagreeable appearance. Here we left the Providence road upon our right hand and proceeded to Hunt's in Rehoboth, nine miles from where we had breakfast (probably the Hatch Tavern in North Attleboro, Massachusetts) from thence we came to Bristol before dinner. Dined at one Widdow Paine's a Private house but sent our horses to the Tavern." (7)





The Newman settlers chose for the site of their new settlement an attractive area enclosed in a bend of the river which they called the Mill River. Doubtless the Indians had bestowed a name on this stream but unfortunately the settlers either did not know what it was or ignored it because it was unpronounceable for them. At a later date the river became known as the Ten Mile River. The earliest use of the latter name is in a deed dated May 25, 1668. (8) The Ten Mile River has its source in Massachusetts, flowing through the Attleboros and Seekonk where it enters the great river in East Providence through what was once a salt cove. A dam built in 1865 raised the level of the water in the cove by about two feet thus converting it into a fresh water pond.

Within this bend of the Mill or Ten Mile River, which is now in East Providence, Rhode Island, the Newman settlers laid out a long parallelogram roughly oriented northeast-southwest, and nearly a mile and a half in width. Following the line of the present day roads which enclose it, the perimeter now measures approximately two and a half miles. This enclosure was known as the "Ring of the Town", the "Ring of the Green" or, less commonly, the "Ring of the Common". There was an indentation in the southwesterly side of the enclosure where a small area of low land or marsh was avoided. This low spot was later filled and graded so that there is now no sign that it ever existed. A small brook originating in a pond in the common ran through a rather deep gulley, crossing what is now Broadway it emptied into the Ten Mile River. This ancient brook still flows but in a stone culvert many feet below the present surface.

Based upon the parallelogram a series of long narrow home lots were laid out, the head of each butting the common. The owner of each lot was required to erect and maintain a fence across the head of this lot thus creating a continuous fence about the "Ring of the Town." Into this common pasture the cattle and other live stock belonging to the settlement were turned out to graze without danger of straying or being molested by wolves of which there were plenty about.

All travel about the "Ring" followed paths for the accomodation of horseback riders but, as the town grew, they became cart paths widened and improved to allow for vehicular traffic.



However, they were not the straight, well-defined roads suggested by the map. They avoided the low spots and detoured about the Meeting House Pond and the marshy areas through which ran the town brook. From time to time the owners of the several lots replaced their fences and in so doing, endeavored to enlarge their holdings somewhat. The town records show that they were taken to task for this attempt to encroach upon the common land, and were warned to move their fences back to its original position. (9)

The diagonal paths which crossed the common and left through four gates (a fifth was added in 1652 when a new access road was built) led to the meeting house. In 1790 the town directed that, "the roads about the Ring of the Town be surveyed out as highways." (10) These highways became the present day Hoyt, Pawtucket, Bishop, Greenwood and Bourne avenues, Pleasant and Elm Streets. The north-south road across the "Ring" was an extension of Pawtucket Avenue and the east-west road became Newman Avenue. The minister's house (F) was located near the present Newman Avenue Congregational Church close to Cemetery Pond. It was completed in 1668 and given to the "Teacher" the Reverend Noah Newman, son of the Reverend Samuel Newman the founder of the town. At the start of Philip's War in 1675 his house was fortified and became the principle garrison house. It was from this garrison that Captain Michael Pierce led his company to their deaths in an Indian ambush on March 26, 1676. The Pierce Fight took place on the bank of the Blackstone not too far from Rehoboth. The Garrison House was a favorite meeting place for Military conferences both during and after the Indian troubles in 1675-76 and many famous colonial notables were entertained there including Governor Winslow, Captain James Cudworth, Benjamin Church, Lieut. Nathaniel Thomas, Joseph Dudley, Captain Hutchinson and Samuel Mosely.

The first meeting house was built as shown on the map in 1646 and was approximately at the center of the "Ring," the second church was a short distance southwest of the original meeting house and was built in 1680 shortly after the Indian War. The first was a small building about sixteen by twenty feet and was the first public building in the town. Located as it was close to the minister's house (later the Garrison





House) probably accounts for its preservation when the Indians burned most of the town in 1676. The King's Royal Commissioners met with Roger Williams and the representatives from Rhode Island in this little building in 1664 when they were discussing the Plymouth and Massachusetts Colony bounds.

The second meeting house was started in 1674 but the outbreak of Philip's War delayed the project. It was completed in 1680. It was a bit larger than the first meeting house being twenty-six by forty feet. (see map for location) The First Continental Congress to be held in America, appointed to deal with the questions posed in connection with the colonial participation in Queen Anne's War with the French, met in this second Rehoboth meeting house in October of 1709.

It was not too long after the Newman settlers had divided up their lands at Rehoboth, that they began to complain of feeling "straightened as to lands and neighbors" and began to look about them for more land which could be added to their township. First they looked to the south where they had discovered large areas of what appeared to be excellent farm land that was for the most part cleared and could be purchased. At what is now called Gardner's Neck, South Swansea, there was a small Indian village and a large area which was planted yearly in corn by the Indians. Here lived Caunbitant, father of Weetamo, prominent in the early history of Plymouth. On March 5, 1667/68 they made the second purchase of the Indian Wannamoisett. This included what are now the towns of Swansea (1), Somerset (12), most of Warren (9), Barrington (8) and the Riverside section of East Providence (part of 7). On July 5, 1669, Papasquash Neck (except 100 acres) was annexed to Swansea.

Apparently the Plymouth Court became somewhat apprehensive at this large purchase and in 1668 the Court enacted a law which prohibited all persons from buying any more lands pertaining to the Mount Hope Lands or Causumset. Barrington (8 and 9) was taken from Swansea (Wannamoisett) and incorporated as a Massachusetts town but later the town was by Royal decree taken from that state and added to Rhode Island. Parts of Wannamoisett and Rehoboth were added to Barrington when the new boundary line between Plymouth and Rhode Island was drawn in 1746 and the name of Barrington was changed to Warren,





Rhode Island. However, in 1770 Warren was divided and a new town was established and given the old name of Barrington.

In 1661 Captain Thomas Willett was authorized to secure title from the Indians for the third addition to Rehoboth called the North Purchase. Accordingly he negotiated with the sachem Wamsutta who had succeeded his father at Pokonoket, for another extensive tract. The boundaries of this new purchase were on the west the Pawtucket (Blackstone) River, on the north the line of the Bay Colony, on the east by the Taunton North Purchase (now Norton, Mansfield and Easton) and on the south by the original Rehoboth north bound. (4-5-6) This purchase was confirmed to the inhabitants of Rehoboth by the Plymouth Court April 10, 1666. Cumberland (1) was included in the Rehoboth north purchase but the charter granted to Rhode Island by the King in 1663 this area was awarded to the latter colony. The precise location of the boundary line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island was not settled for almost two hundred years. After Philip's War the Mount Hope Lands were declared to be conquered and, by special grant from the king, were annexed to Plymouth on January 2, 1680. On February 2, 1790, Somerset was set off from Wannamoisett (Swansea) and incorporated a separate town. (12)

In 1812 the town of Rehoboth was divided, the eastern portion took the name of Rehoboth and the western portion regained the ancient name of Seekonk. (4-5) On March 1, 1828 the northern end of Seekonk (4) was incorporated as the town of Pawtucket, Massachusetts, but, with the establishment of still another boundary between Rhode Island and Massachusetts in 1861, Pawtucket and East Providence (4-7) were exchanged with Rhode Island for Fall River. The last change in the boundary lines between the two colonies resulted in locating the oldest portion of Rehoboth in the State of Rhode Island, forever freed from the grasping hands of the Bay Colony. On June 14, 1887 North Attleboro was set off from Attleboro (2-3) and the dismemberment of the ancient township of Rehoboth was complete.



KEY TO MAP

OLD REHOBOTH PURCHASE

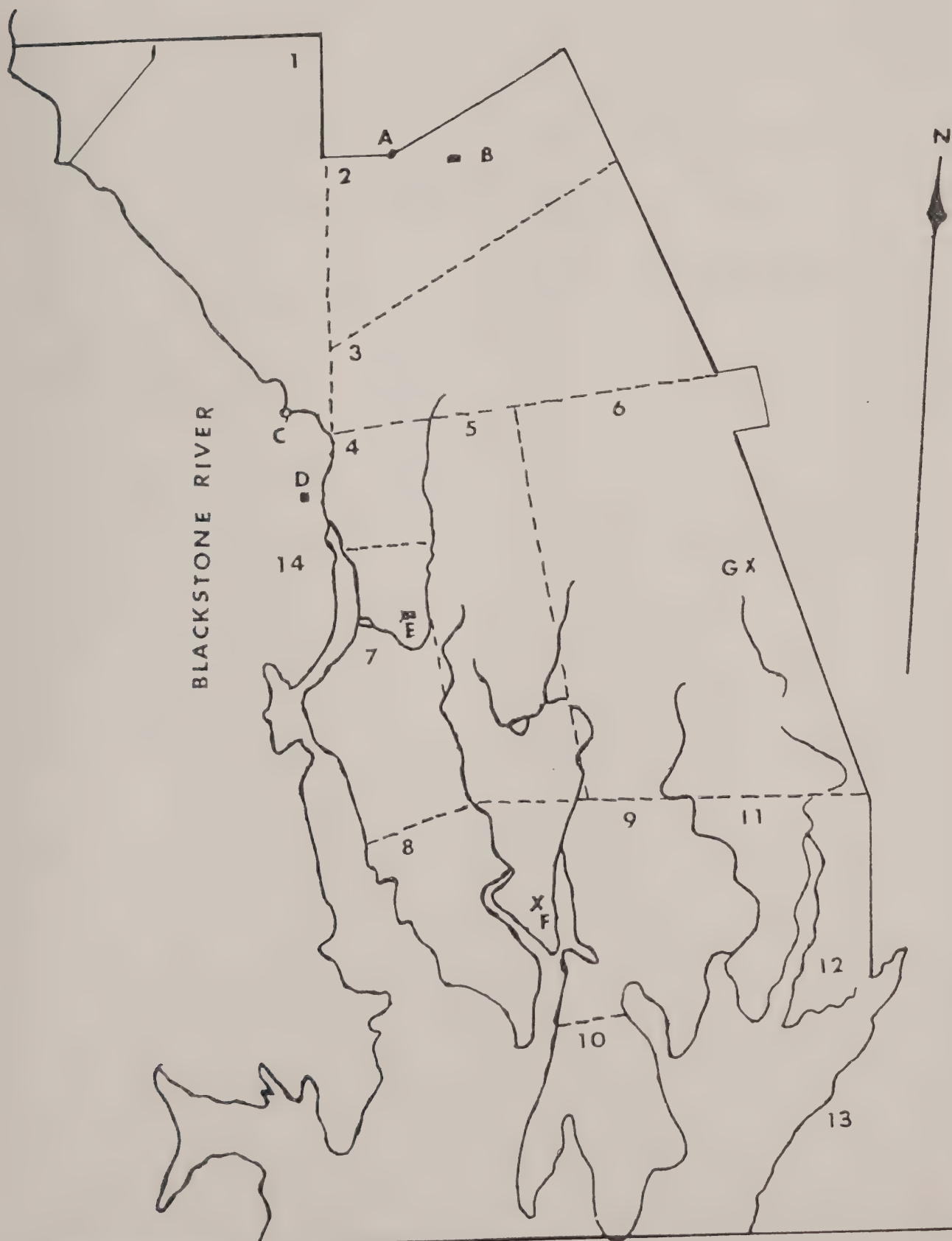
|                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Cumberland, Rhode Island       | Mishanegetaconnett                 |
| 2. North Attleboro, Massachusetts | Snechataconett                     |
| 3. Attleboro, Massachusetts       |                                    |
| 4. Pawtucket, Rhode Island        | Pautuckquett                       |
| 5. Seekonk, Massachusetts         | Seaconkett                         |
| 6. Rehoboth, Massachusetts        |                                    |
| 7. East Providence, Rhode Island  | Watchemoket                        |
| 8. Barrington, Rhode Island       | Naket                              |
| 9. Warren, Rhode Island           | Included in Sowamsett              |
| 10. Bristol, Rhode Island         | Montaup-Causumsett-Papasquash Neck |
| 11. Swansea, Massachusetts        | Wannamoisett-Mattepoisett          |
| 12. Somerset, Massachusetts       | Shawomet                           |
| 13. Tiverton, Rhode Island        | Pocasett                           |
| 14. Providence, Rhode Island      |                                    |

- A. Angle Tree Stone - the northern bound of Plymouth Colony
- B. Site of the Woodcock Garrison House
- C. Wawaypounshag - Blackstone's Study Hall - Wading place
- D. Site of Captain Pierce Fight 1676
- E. Ring of the Town of Rehoboth 1643
- F. Pokonoket or Sowamsett
- G. Anawon's Rock in Squannaconk Swamp





# OLD REHOBOTH PURCHASE







KEY TO MAP

OLD REHOBOTH TOWN SQUARE

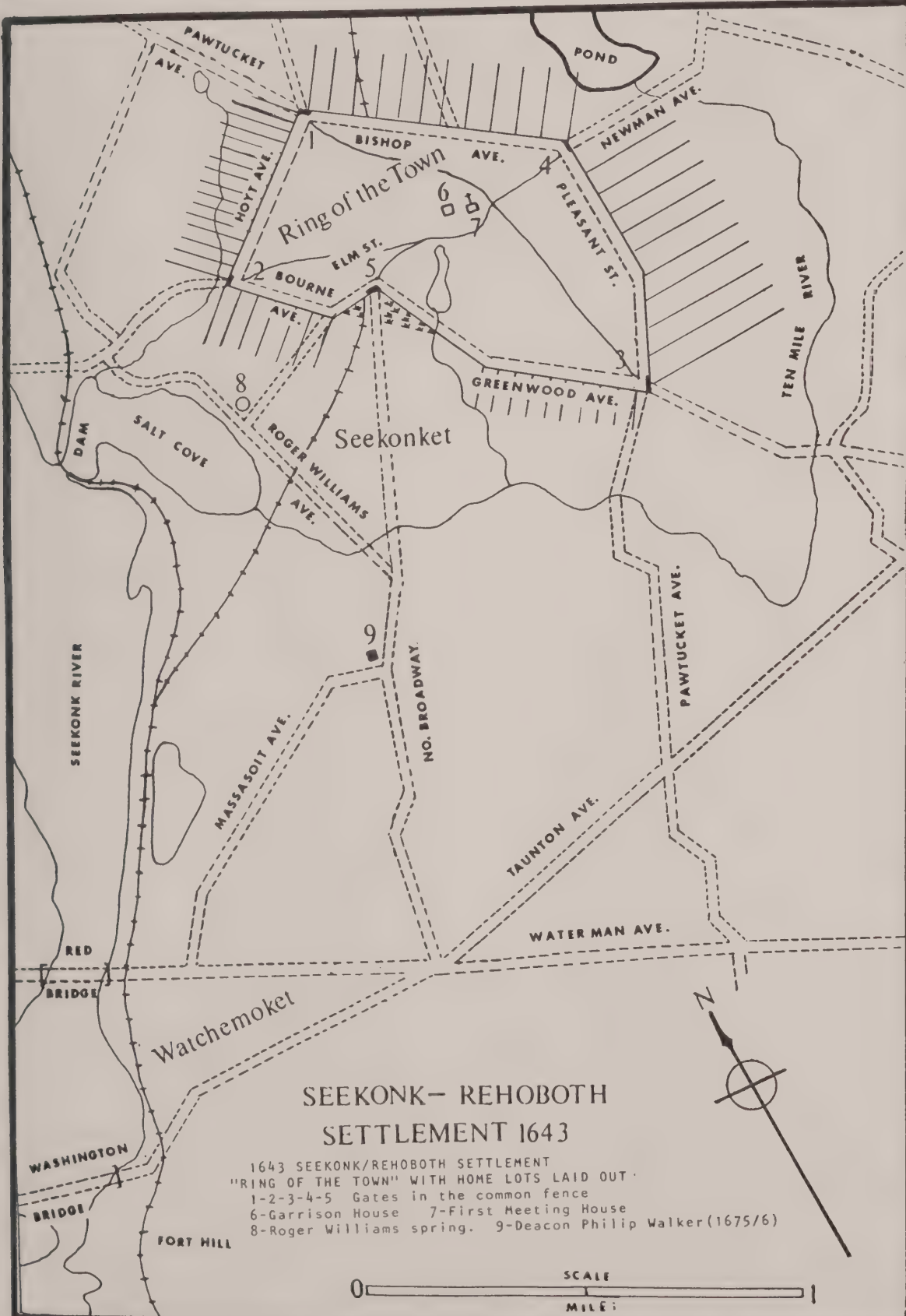
|                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. First Meeting House             | 1646 - Approx. center of Ring   |
| B. Second Meeting House            | 1680                            |
| C. Third Meeting House             | 1716                            |
| D. Fourth Meeting House            | 1810 - Newman Ave. Cong. Church |
| E. Addition to Church              | 1947                            |
| F. Newman Garrison House           | 1668 - Approx. location         |
| G. Pastor's Lot                    |                                 |
| H. Boulder with Brass Insert Plate | Modern                          |
| I. Slack Tomb                      | 1825                            |
| J. Proprietor's Tomb               | 1826 - with 1680 addition       |
| K. Original Burying Ground         |                                 |
| L. Added 1680                      |                                 |
| M. Added 1790                      |                                 |

Graves - 1668 to 1680

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. William Carpenter    | 8. Margaret Carpenter          |
| 2. Unmarked stone       | 9. Rev. Thomas Greenwood       |
| 3. Ensign Thomas Read   | 10. Daniel Smith               |
| 4. Deacon Philip Walker | 11. Abigail Smith              |
| 5. Ephraim Harmon       | 12. Rev. Samuel Newman         |
| 6. Esther Brown         | 13. Hannah Newman              |
| 7. Mary Walker          | 14. Rev. Joseph Greenwood      |
|                         | 15. Minister's Monument (1863) |

Information from Early Rehoboth Vol. IV., page 39.









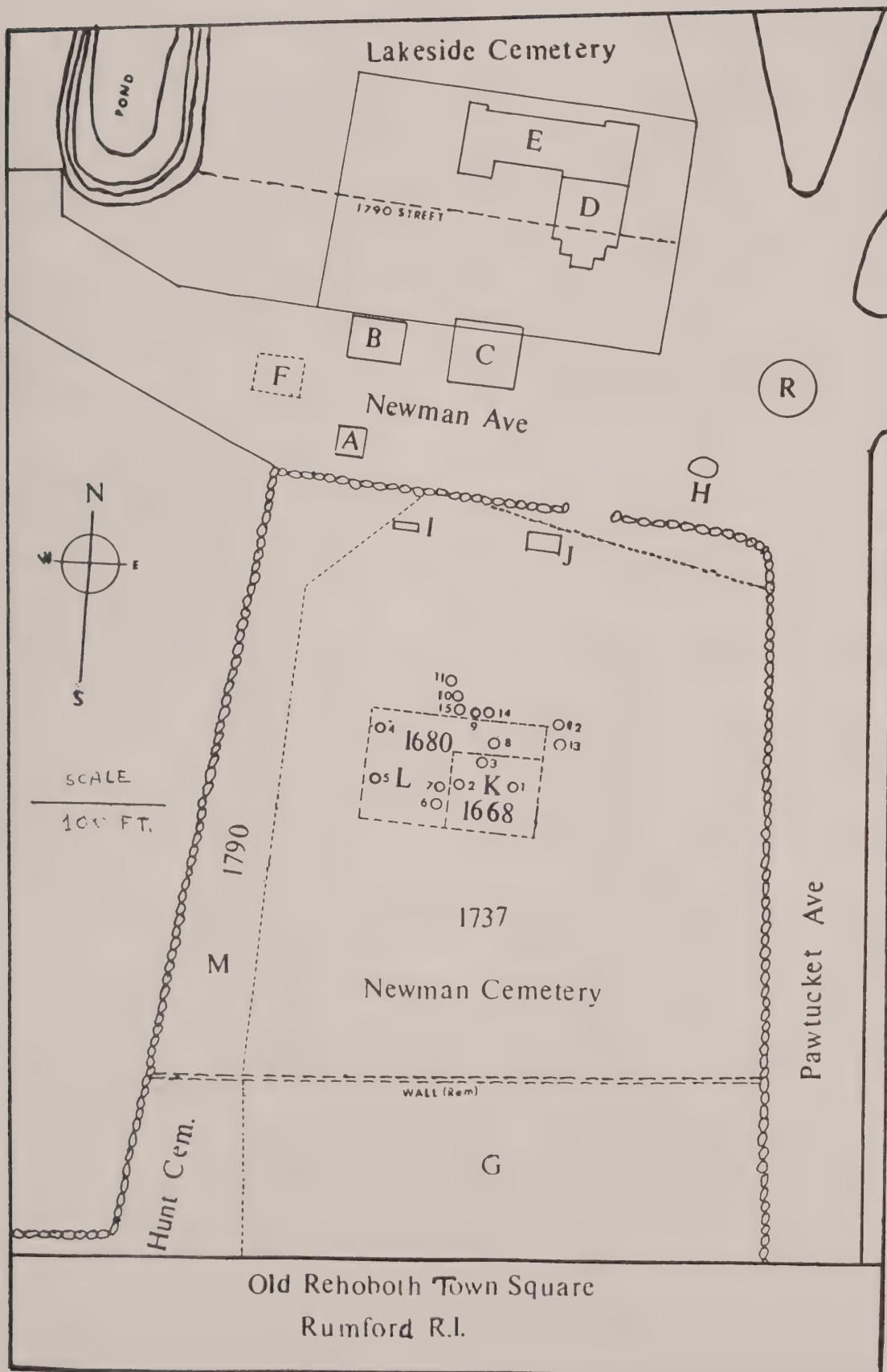
KEY TO MAP

SEEKONK-REHOBOTH SETTLEMENT 1643

|            |                              |        |
|------------|------------------------------|--------|
| 1-2-3-4-5. | Gates in Ring of the Town    | 1643   |
| 6.         | Newman Garrison House        | 1675   |
| 7.         | First Church                 | 1646   |
| 8.         | Roger William's Spring       | 1636   |
| 9.         | House - Deacon Philip Walker | 1675/6 |

Information from Early Rehoboth Vol. IV., Page 23.









KEY TO MAP

1795 REHOBOTH

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Pawtucket Falls | 11. Miller's River              |
| 2. Seekonk Cove    | 12. Corner of Dighton & Swansea |
| 3. Central Bridge  | 13. Corner of Norton            |
| 4. India Bridge    | 14. Taunton Road                |
| 5. Bowen's Cove    | 15. Ten Mile River              |
| 6. ? Cove          | 16. Seven Mile River            |
| 7. Sabin's Cove    | 17. Boston Road                 |
| 8. Bullock's Point | 18. Mendon Road                 |
| 9. Bullock's Cove  | 19. Rehoboth "Ring of the Town" |
| 10. Runnin's River | 20. Devil's Pond                |

HANDWRITTEN LEGEND FROM 1795 MAP

A further description of this Plan besides that Described on the lines (above).

The Black Lines Laid Down in the Body of the Plan are Descriptive of the Rivers, Coves and Ponds contained in the Town.

The Pricked Lines on the Plan are Descriptive of the Principle Roads that are Traveled through the Town but there is a large B by the Same Across the Black Lines to Represent Bridges.

The Meeting Houses and Mills and Iron Works are all marked on the Plan.

The Large Black Line above Pawtucket River which the State of Rhode Island claims is the line, the Small Black Line Represents the Line agreeable as the Commissioners run the same From the Said Falls which now runs N6d E and there is a Grist Mill and a Bouldering Mill and a Manufactory for the Making of Cloth on the Disputed Land.

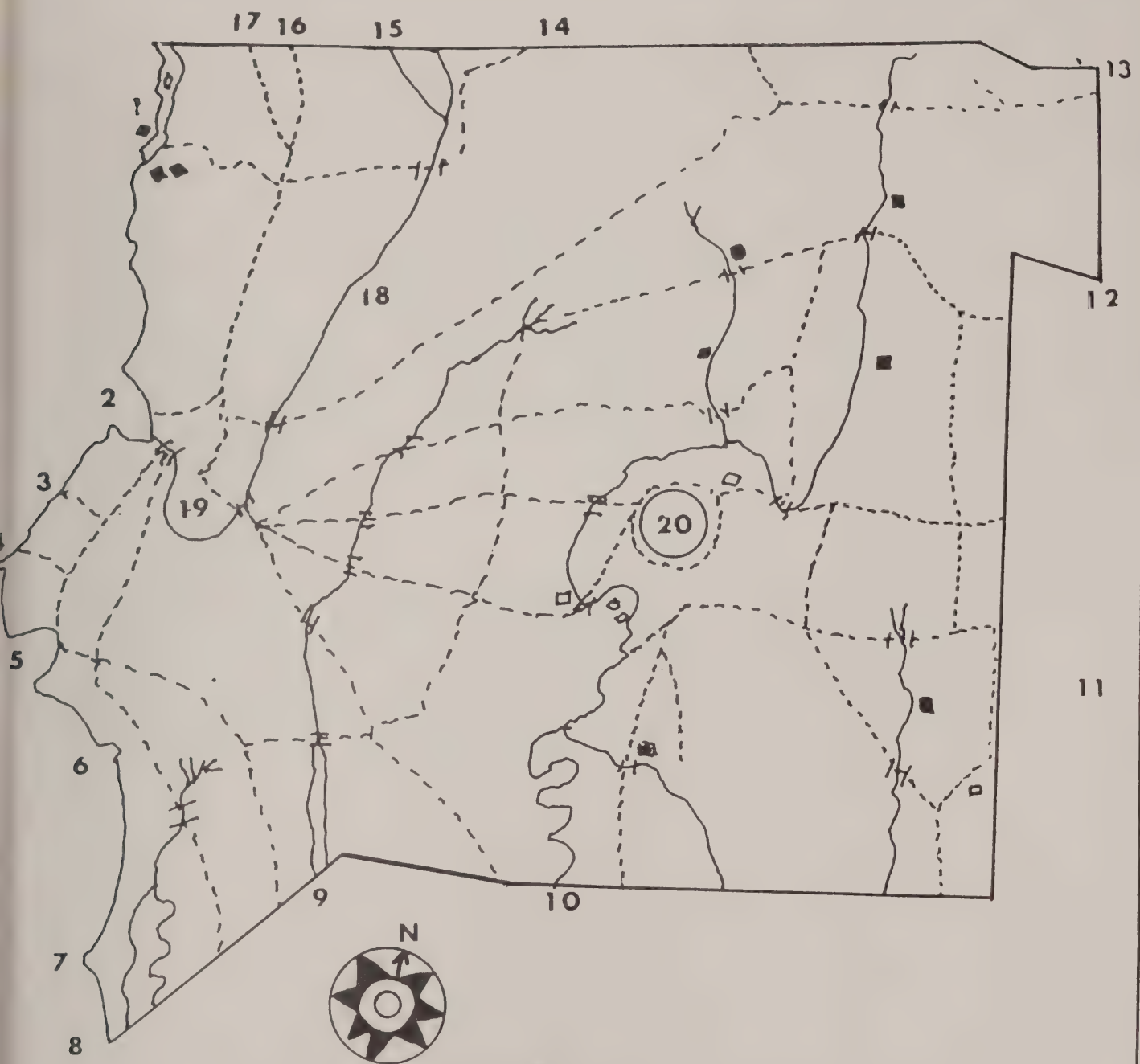
The Reported Distance from the Center of the Town of Rehoboth to Boston is 40 Miles and from the Said Center to Taunton Court House is 15 Miles

The Actual Survey of the Town was taken in the Month of February and on March

Last Past all but 3061 Rods between this Town and Swansea which was run about Four Years Since - Rehoboth May 26, 1795

COMMITTEE FOR YE TOWN OF REHOBOTH  
Phanuel Bishop, Frederick Brown  
Valentine Martin, David Perry  
Elkannah French Jr.





REHOBOTH 1795



200 RODS  
= 1 INCH





December 1, 1640 - William Bradford for himself and heirs, surrenders into the hands and power of the court the letters patent of Plymouth Colony, reserving for himself and "Old Comers" three tracts of land.....

The third of these tracts was "from Sowansett River (Warren River) to Pawtucket River (Pautuckqut - Sneehtaconet - Seekonket - Narragnasett - Neetmock - Nipmuck, Providence River) (with Cowsumsett neck (the Indian name of the tract of land now forming the northern part of Bristol, R.I.) which is ye chief habitation of ye Indians & reserved for them to dwell upon) extending into ye land 8 myles through ye whole breadth thereof. Together with such other small parcels of land as they or any of them are personally possessed of or interested in by vertue of any former titles or grants whatsoever. ("Of Plymouth Plantation" - Bradford)

CAUSUMSET - The Plymouth government in 1668 enacted a law prohibiting all persons from buying land from the Indians, "or receiving in any way of the Indians any of these lands that appertain unto Mount Hope or Causumset Necke (Brigham's Compact Charter, and Laws, page 154)



DEED OF SOWAMSET (Plymouth County Deeds, Vol. II, Pt. 1, Page 78 - Sowams Records, pp. 8-9)

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, Ousamequin and Wamsetto his eldest sonne Sendeth greeting.....that we the said Ousamequin and Wamsetto for and in consideration of thirty-five pounds Sterling to us the said Ousamequin and Wamsetto in hand payed by Thomas Prence Gent. : Thomas Willet Gent. : Miles Standish Gent. : Josias Winslow Gent. : for and in behalf of themselves and divers others of the Inhabitants of Plymouth Jurisdiction whose names are hereafter specified with which said summe we the said Ousamequin and Wamsetto doe acknowledge ourselves fully satisfied, contented and payed Have freely and absolutely bargained and sold enfeofed and confirmed....unto Thomas Prence, Thomas Willet, Miles Standish, Josias Winslow, Agents for themselves and William Bradford Senr. Gent. : Thomas Clark : John Winslow : Thomas Cushman : William White : John Adams : and Experience Mitchell to tell them and every of them.....all those several parcels and necks of upland Swamps and Meadows Lyeing and being on the South side of Sinchunch Els Rehoboth Bounds and is Bounded from a Little Brooke of water called by the Indians Mosskituash Westerly, and so ranging by a dead swamp Eastward and so by markt trees as Ousamequin and Wamsetto directed unto the great river with all the meadow in an about ye sydes of both the branches of the great river, with all of the said meadows as also all the marsh meadows Lyeing and being with out the Bounds before mentioned in or about the neck called by the Indians Chachacust.

Also all the meadows of any kind lyeing and being in or about Papasquash neck as also all the meadows lyeing from Kickomuet on both side or any way Joyning into it on the bay on each side. To Have and to Hold all the aforesaid uplands swampe marshes Creeks and Rivers with all their appurtenances unto the aforesaid Thomas Prence, Thomas Willett, Miles Standish, Josias Winslow and the rest of the Partners aforesaid to them and every of them, and their and every of their haiers executors and assigns forever. And the said Ousamequin and Wamsetto his sonne covenant promise and grant that whensoever the Indians shall remove from the neck that then and from thenceforth the





aforesaid Thomas Prence, Thomas Willett, Miles Standish, Josias Winslow shall enter upon the same by the same agreement as their Proper Right And interest to them and their heirs forever. To and for the performance of all and every one of the aforesaid several Particulars wee the said Ousamequin and Wamsetto Bind us and every of us and every of our heirs Executors Administrators and assigns firmly by these presents.

In witness whereof wee have hereunto sett our hands and seales this twentieth day of March Anno Domini 1653.

Signed sealed and delivered in ye presence of us

John Browne

The mark of

James Browne

Ousamequin & a seale

Richard Garrett

Wamsetto M & seale



Know all men by these presents that we Thomas Prence, Josias Winslow, Thomas Southworth, and Constant Southworth by order of the General Court of New Plymouth and in the name and behalf of the said Colony of Plymouth, have and by these presents do bargain, sell, alien, grant, and confer and make over unto the proprietors of the town of Rehoboth, (viz) unto all that hold there, from a fifty pound estate and upward, according to their first agreement, all and singular, the lands lying and being on the north side of that town of Rehoboth, bounded as followeth, (viz) by a River commonly called Pawtucket River on the west, and up the said river unto the Massachusetts line and on the northerly side of the said line until it cross the old road towards the Bay, where the marked tree stands and a heap of stones, and thence a mile and a half east, and from thence by a direct line to the northeast corner of the present bounds of Rehoboth and so back again home unto the said line between the Government's with all meadows, woods, waters, and all benefits, emoulments, privileges, and immunities thereunto pertaining and belonging; to have and to hold to them and to their heirs forever; Excepting that we reserve within this tract a Thomas Willett, and two hundred acres of land unto Mr. James Brown about Snake Hill, and ten acres of meadow thereabouts; and a meadow called Blackstone's Meadow, the west plain and the south neck and a quantity of two hundred acres, and fifty acres granted to Roger Amadown, and four acres of meadow next adjoining, three acres to Nicholas Ide, and a half acre of meadow unto George Robinson; All the residue of the lands above mentioned we do firmly make over unto the above said purchasors and their heirs forever, and do hereby acknowledge ourselves to be fully paid and satisfied for the same, and do exonerate, acquit and discharge them and every of them for and concerning the premises.

In witness whereof we hereunto set our hands and seals, this thirteenth day of April, 1666.

Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of:

Issac Howland

The Mark X of John Parris

The Mark X of John Rocket

Thomas Prence (LS)

Josias Winslow (LS)

Thomas Southworth (LS)

Constant Southworth (LS)





DEED FOR REHOBOTH NORTH PURCHASE - ATTLEBORO, NORTH ATTLEBORO  
AND CUMBERLAND R.I.

"Know all men by these presents, that I Wamsitta, alias Alexander, Chief Sachem of Pokonket, for divers good causes and valuable considerations me thereunto moving have bargained and sold unto Captain Thomas Willett of Wannamoisett, all those tracts of land situate and being from the bounds of Rehoboth ranging upon the Pawtucket River unto a place called Weyway-poundshag, the place where Blackstone now sojourneth, and so ranging along the said river unto a place called Massengtacaneh, and from this upon a straight line crossing through the woods unto the uttermost bounds of a place called Mamantapett, or Wading River, and from the said river one mile and a half upon an east line, and from thence upon a south line unto the bounds of the town of Rehoboth: To have and to hold unto him the said Captain Willett and his associates their heirs and assigns forever; reserving only a competent portion of this land for some of the natives at Mishanegitacconnett for to plant and sojourn upon, as the said Wamsitta alias Alexander and the said Thomas Willett jointly together shall see meet; and the rest of all of the land aforementioned, with all the woods, waters, meadows, and all emoluments whatsoever to remain unto the said Thomas Willett and his associates, their heirs and assigns forever.

Witness my hand and seal the eighth day of April in the year 1661

Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of

John Browne, Jr.

Jonathan Bosworth

John Sassamon, the Interpreter

The mark of

Wamsitta alias Alexander

his seal (LS)

ON THE REVERSE OF THIS DEED

April 10, 1666, Witnesseth these presents, that Captain Willett above said hath and doth hereby resign, deliver, and make over all and singular the lands above mentioned purchased of Wamsitta alias Alexander, Chief Sachem of Pokonoket, according unto the bounds expressed, with all and singular the benefits, privileges,



and immunities thereunto pertaining, unto Mr. Thomas Prence,  
Major Josias Winslow, Captain Thomas Southworth and Mr. Constant  
Southworth, in behalf of the Colony of New Plymouth.  
In witness whereof he doth hereunto set his hand and seal

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of

Daniel Smith

Thomas Willett (seal)

Nicholas Peck





## APPENDIX

In the Bristol County Registry of Deeds at Taunton, Massachusetts one will find the original records of the Proprietors of Rehoboth. They consist of six handwritten books as follows:

Rehoboth Proprietors Meetings 1712/13 to 1841 - 362 pages. (The first page of the Land Records is a Preface followed by 22 pages of land records extracted from Rehoboth Town Meetings Book I, then 51 pages of land records extracted from Book II. Starting with page 75 is the record of the first meeting of the Proprietors held in conjunction with a Town Meeting January 8, 1712-13.)

Subsequent meetings follow - 287 pages.

Rehoboth Land Records - Book I - 1664 to 1667 (83 pages)

Book II - 1684 to 1703 (383 pages)

Book III - 1703 to 1748/9 (369 pages)

Book IV - 1716 to 1817 (356 pages)

Book V - 1738 to 1839 (188 pages)

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